House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 20, 2022, at 12 p.m.

Senate

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2022

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty and merciful God, who has given us grace in times past and hope for the years to come, in these times that try our souls, strengthen us to continue to grow in grace and knowledge.

Lord, bless the Members of this body and the staffs that serve them. Increase their faith as you increase their years. Give them the moral fitness to live lives of integrity and faithfulness. May they not falter under the burdens they are asked to carry in these uncertain days.

Lord, bless them with clear minds and opened eyes that they will not seek to solve tomorrow's problems with yesterday's solutions.

We pray in Your Holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore, led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Martin J. Gruenberg, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation for a term of six years. (Reappointment).

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Hawaii.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HIRONO). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

ANTI-SEMITISM

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, let me start by wishing Jewish Americans everywhere a happy start to Hanukkah.

I celebrated the first night with my family up in New York, and I hope my colleagues who observe Hanukkah were able to do the same.

The story of Hanukkah is, among many things, a story of perseverance in the face of unspeakable hatred. It is also a lesson that hits home this year for many Jewish Americans targeted recently by anti-Semitism.

After decades of hard work, it is terrifying to see today that anti-Semitism is on the rise in America. We must do everything we can to stomp it down.

No matter what our faiths may be, of course, I urge all Americans of goodwill to take a stand against the forces of bigotry and intolerance.

There are many out there who are trying to use their platforms to make anti-Semitism more acceptable in our country, and we must oppose them at every turn.

I have faith that the forces of intolerance will lose in the end, just as they did in the days of Hanukkah when Judah Maccabee led the Jewish people against an oppressive majority.

But the fight is long, and all of us must do our part. So as we continue observing the Festival of Lights, I say to colleagues and to Jewish Americans across the country: Chag Sameach, happy holiday.

And thank God that, in this country, freedom of religion and tolerance is part of our watch word, unlike it was in the old days of Judah Maccabee.

OMNIBUS

On the omni, appropriators are racing around the clock to finish the last major item on our to-do list for 2022: an